

AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSON
November 16, 2004



Minutes

Chairperson Edward La Montagne called the meeting to order in the Blue Room at Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut at 8:05 pm.

Present: Ed La Montagne, Grace Comeau, Gloria Knierim, John Romano (Bd of Selectmen liaison), John Hampton (Bd of Selectmen), Peg Bergethon, Charlotte Steptoe, Lynn Veith, Ricki Bergquist (staff consultant), Kathie Fallon Enterprises, LLC

Not Present: Arline Bidwell (excused), Moira Werheimer

Public Audience : none

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes of the October meeting were amended by showing Grace Comeau present and changing the item under Old Business to reflect Aging Awareness Award.

Motion by Peg Bergethon, seconded by Kathie Fallon to approve the minutes as amended.

Minutes approved as amended.

Reports: Sub-committee Projects:

Disability: Charlotte reported on articles of interest in "Direct to Families" - a new client advocate hired and possible funding. Peg reminded the Commission that we had discussed new traffic signals for Hopmeadow crossings that would be more user friendly for hearing and/or visually impaired residents. John Romano suggested contacting Bill Garrity who is the liaison to the Public Safety Commission. They can recommend improvements to the state since the state is responsible for Route 10 improvements. Ed will follow up

Aging: Copies of the CANPFA (Connecticut Association of Not-for-Profit Providers for the Aging) were provided. Lynn reported that the newsletter has good information and the "Quality First" logo that appears on the paper indicates a voluntary covenant among providers to strive for quality of care over current standards. She also reported on the Long Term Advisory Council which is encouraging more options for long term care, including more extensive assisted living and recruitment and training of more caregivers

Legislative: Federal - none

State - Ed reported on possible "indexing" which would provide funds to enable private facilities to increase staff salaries to match those of state employees in similar jobs.

Housing: The Ensign Bickford Forest project has met all but final Planning Commission approval. Hopmeadow Place will probably be opening June '05. Many of the 66 condo units have been purchased by current Simsbury residents. Prices are approximately \$300,000

plus \$300. monthly maintenance fees.

Souper Tuesday: The October Souper was the Fashion Show. Grace reported that there were some issues with the size of the soup pots and the flavoring. Although salt was made available on the tables, few used it so going to light salt was apparently appropriate. There were also some issues with the counts for Fashion Show participants as well as timing but these were resolved. The show was a great success as usual and can be viewed on SCTV Mondays in November at either 2pm or 9pm. The next Souper is 11/30 with the Civitans serving.

Ways & Means: Ed will be offering to do presentations to organizations in the community as well as sending letters.

Senior Center: Ricki reported that the air conditioning work was continued and will hopefully be completed by mid-December. Ladies from the center baked several dozen cookies to be included in packages being shipped to servicemen by a Canton volunteer group. Notes from the seniors will be included in the packages. Flu shots have been made available for seniors who meet the priority requirements. The Senior Center Tag & Bake Sale raised over \$1200. – double last year's amount. She urged support of the Turkey Trot.

Old Business :

Music for All Ages: Ed is working on contacting the appropriate personnel to arrange a date.

Fashion Show: It was deemed a great success.

Plan of Action: Ed proposed a draft Plan of Action to as a road map for 2005 activities. There was a motion by Grace, seconded by Gloria, to accept the plan with suggested changes. Motion approved.

Successful Aging Award: Lynn and Ricki will make a proposal at the January meeting covering criteria for the award. A discussion on the possible criteria ensued. It will with the Disability Award on an annual basis.

New Business:

Adult Housing: The Powder Forest project was discussed. John Roman suggested a letter to the Chairman of the Planning Commission if the Aging Commission wished to express their opinion of the project. There was a motion by Peg, seconded by Lynn to have Ed write a letter to the Chairman of the Planning Commission endorsing the project but recommending that the developers put more emphasis on more smaller, more affordable units. Motion approved.

Charter Commission: John Romano reported the current issues is primarily the form of town government. He urged the Commission to make any proposals that we might deem advisable.

Ed requested approval to send letters to recently elected officials to congratulate them and to make them mindful of the Commission, its work and the names of the members. Motion made by Lynn, seconded by Peg. Motion approved.

Membership: We are currently short 3 members and 4 alternates. Ed has contacted both political parties to urge filling of the vacant position before the January meeting. He reported that the recommendation had been made to move Arline Bidwell to alternate while pursuing an "emeritus" status. This will require a charter amendment. Ed was directed to write a letter to the Charter Commission proposing the Emeritus status.

Nominating Committee: Lynn, Gloria and Peg agreed to serve as a nominating committee and will bring a slate of officers to the Commission for a January vote.

Correspondence: Gloria received an invitation to the Area on Aging meeting at Avon Senior Center. She will attend to represent the Commission.

Motion to adjourn by Gloria, seconded by Lynn. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathleen Fallon